

RLG Update from Scotland

Train the Trainer

In December we held Train the Trainer sessions for those who would be involved in our second RLG course, either as trainers or observers. During the T the T sessions we used a number of the activities including Mazes, Cup Tower and Stick Challenge. These were very successful and we had some good feedback regarding the observation checklists and suggestions as to which of the activities the participants would benefit most from.

As a result of the feedback from these sessions we changed the course timetable from what we had originally planned so that the tasks were grouped together to suit whichever trainer would be delivering the programme on a particular day. Two of our local Business Gateway Advisers (who work with start-up businesses in the area) were involved in the sessions and they will also be delivering part of the RLG course. Since they both have a great deal of experience in advising young people about local employment opportunities and also provide help to young entrepreneurs, we felt that it was important to make sure that this expertise could be incorporated into our next RLG course.

The 2nd Scottish RLG Course

Following the success of our first RLG course, which we provided for our local secondary school, Alva Academy, the school asked if we would run a second course for them. The new group is made up of 14 pupils (7 boys and 7 girls) who are in the 4th year of secondary education. Some of the group will leave school at the end of this academic year. It was decided that following the Assessment Day in December, the course would run from January to March and would lead into work experience placements for the course participants. The Business Gateway Advisers will help to organise these work placements and those who participate will gain a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in work experience.

The participants for the course were selected by their Guidance Teachers who were aware of our previous course and they chose pupils whom they felt would benefit the most from having this opportunity. As a result this group is a very different one from our first course as these pupils, although they do not have

behavioural issues, are of mixed ability, with a variety of support needs. Some are very capable students, and others require a lot of help.

We held our Assessment Day in December in the school as we felt that it was more appropriate to keep them in school for the start of the course before taking them out to business premises. Some of the senior pupils (aged 18) had been involved in the Train the Trainer sessions and they acted as observers during the tasks. The Assessment Day was very successful and most of the tasks were enjoyed by the participants.

To accommodate the school timetable we are now running the second course on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from January till March. Ceteris, our local business enterprise company, have again provided free rooms for us in the local Alloa Business Centre and we have arranged transport to collect the pupils from school to the centre.

Up until now (2nd Feb) I have taken one session (Cath) and the 2 Business Gateway Advisers (Pam and Michelle) have taken one session. So far everything is going well.

Assessment Day Photographs:

